

Brockton Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
560 West Street
Brockton, Massachusetts 02301

Office 508-583-2933
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Building Numbering Guidelines

Statutory references.

Massachusetts General Law - Section 59. Every building in the commonwealth, including, but not limited to, dwellings, apartment buildings, condominiums, and business establishments shall have affixed thereto a number representing the address of such building. Said number shall be of a nature and size and shall be situated on the building so that, to the extent practicable, it is visible from the nearest street or road providing vehicular access to such building.

The state 911 department shall cause such number and the address of such building to be entered into the electronic data base for use in enhanced 911 service as defined in section eighteen A of chapter six A.

Revised Ordinances of the City of Brockton Sec. 20-4. - Numbering buildings.

The department of public works shall assign numbers to all buildings erected or fronting on any public or private way in the city, and shall have the power to determine the form, size and material of such numbers. No person shall neglect or refuse to affix to any building owned by him the street number so designated for such building, nor shall any person affix to or suffer to remain on any building owned by him, for more than three (3) days, a street number other than the one designated for such building by the department.

The following is a commonsense approach.

Six inch numbers are great but do not always fit the decor of the building.

Numbers should be no less than four inch. The bigger the better.

Use numbers and do not spell the number out. 54 rather than Fifty-four

Use block lettering.

Do not use of fancy fonts such as *1234*

The numbers must be contrasting. If you have a white background, use black numbers. If you have a dark background use white numbers.

Best placement is either side of the door above the mid line of the door.

Avoid placing numbers away from the front door such as above garage doors.

Put the numbers under lighting, so they will be visible at night.

If your driveway is long, or your house is set back off the road, post your house number on both sides of a mailbox or sign pole at the end of the driveway near the road.

If your driveway is long, or your house is set back off the road you should consider an Address signs. They should be placed about two feet from the driveway in the direction of the house.

The numbers **should not be** on the door. This is due to the fact that many people open the door when they are waiting for us, and when the door is open you cannot see the numbers.

The numbers **should not be** under the door. Many people like to put their numbers under the door on the stoop. The trouble with this is when it snows, the numbers are not visible.

The line that I have been using for years is ***“make them big enough that a 50 year old emergency worker that wears glasses and forgets them can still see the numbers from the street.”***

Make sure shrubbery does not interfere with being able to see numbers.

If there is a mailbox at the street (not common in Brockton)

- Do not use your mailbox as the only means of identification for your house.
- If your mailbox is not in front of your house or near your driveway, emergency responders cannot locate you if you do not have your house number on your house or on a post or sign in your yard above the snow line.
- Remember to mark your mailbox on both sides.
- Numbers on the mailbox door may be great for your mail carrier, but are extremely difficult to see by drivers.



Good Placement next to door



Good placement next to door. Great size numbers.



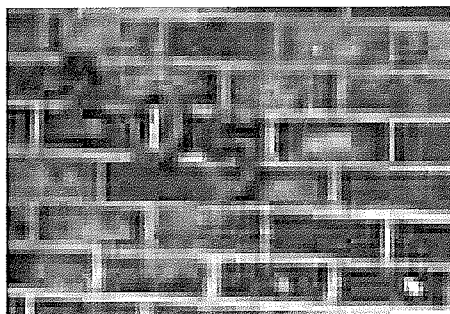
Good placement next to door.



Bad Placement on door

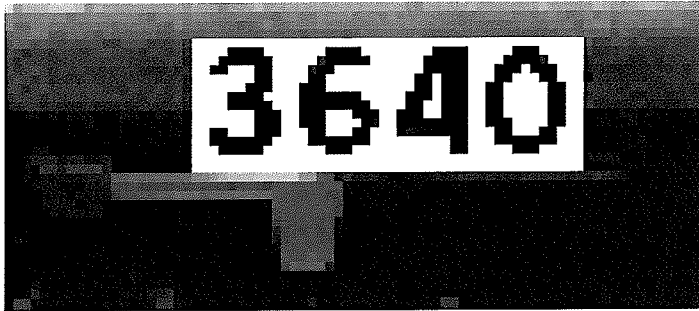


Make sure shrubbery does not interfere with being able to see numbers.

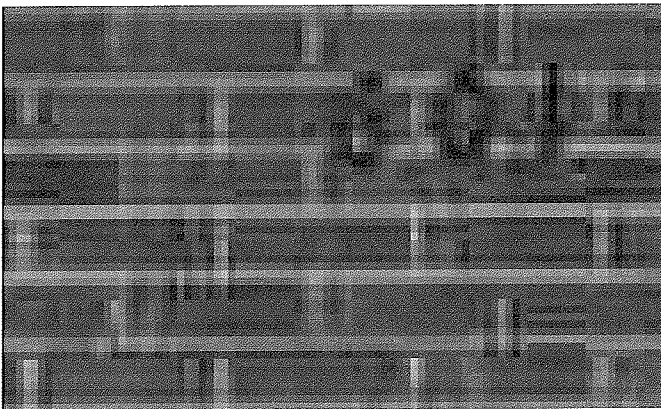


Can you make out the bronze number? If you were looking around, would it catch your eye? Imagine if you stood further away or at night.

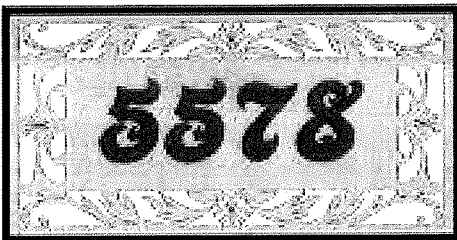
No help. Unfortunately, blank mailboxes like this are everywhere.



On the other hand, black and white stickers are easily noticeable. This is wonderful



A black number on brick is very hard to see from the road. It needs a white number instead



Do not use fancy fonts on the letters



Use plain Block lettering



Sample address post.